



Literally Speaking



Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy 1000 Avocado Ave, Newport Beach, CA 92660 (949) 717-3874

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Gift of Literacy

By Francine Jacome

On April 8, a chilly spring morning, over 100 guests attended the 4th annual *Gift of Literacy* fundraising luncheon held at the Radisson Hotel in Newport Beach.

There was a lot of hubbub around the room as invitees roamed the silent auction tables, met with guest speaker Nicole Mones, purchased raffle tickets, jewelry and cookbooks and mingled with each other.

After a delicious lunch, Co-Chairs Nancy Englebrecht and Shari Elias thanked the special guests in attendance as well as the volunteers for their work in helping to put the event together.



Newport Beach Mayor Mike Henn addresses the luncheon guests.



The ballroom overflowed with supporters of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy.



Author Nicole Mones engaged the audience with her stories and wit.

Coordinator Cherall Weiss talked about the impact of literacy in a person's everyday life and how many people take for granted the most basic abilities. She cited learners Yana Newberg and Judi Treble, who each spoke of their personal journeys and how Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy has profoundly changed their lives.

Following the moving speeches, Newport Beach Public Library Services Director Cynthia Cowell shared the library's relationship with the literacy program. Then — changing hats — as President of Newport Beach Sunrise Rotary, Ms. Cowell presented Literacy Advisory Board President Nancy Thompson with a check for \$5,000 for the program. Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy was selected as the main beneficiary of their 2011 annual fundraising dinner held April 2 at the Central branch.

LUNCHEON, page 2

Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy Celebrates 25 Years

By Carol Hazelwood

It has been twenty-five years since I re-vitalized the Newport Beach literacy program. The longevity of the program is due to the volunteers and staff who have come through the library doors. Many businesses don't last as long.

Originally, the program began through a California Literacy Library Grant given to Placentia Library in 1985 with the directive to start literacy programs in other cities. Newport Beach was one such program, affiliated with *Literacy Volunteers of America* founded by Ruth Colvin.

However, after the first year only one tutor/learner pair remained in the Newport Beach program and it was about to fold. Wanda Weldon, the president of the nearly defunct Board, asked me to restart and run the program after I contacted them. This was in 1986. Having received training as a tutor in literacy, ESL, and teacher training in Anaheim and Huntington Beach, I felt comfortable in taking on the role.

Since then amazing progress has occurred. When the public learned about the program through advertisements of all kinds, they responded as volunteers; and learners followed. For some time I ran much of the program out of my home. With the help of the new librarian, LaDonna Kienitz, and her staff, the program received a California State Literacy Grant.

ANNIVERSARY, page 3



The Advisory Board celebrates the 25th Anniversary of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy.

"The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."
~ Dr. Seuss, *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut* ~

Page 1, **LUNCHEON**

Newport Beach Mayor Mike Henn was next at the podium. During his speech, he stressed his admiration for the literacy program and the learners who have benefitted from its efforts. He was so moved by what he had heard, that he offered a generous donation of \$1,000 from the Mayor's Discretionary Fund.

Nicole Mones engaged the audience with her anecdotes, sharing her experiences working with the people of China during her many years operating a textile business.

Ms. Mones addressed several prepared questions by the Literacy Book Club, which had just finished reading her latest novel, *The Last Chinese Chef*, as their most recent selection.

Following an open question-and-answer session with the author, Mayor Henn assisted in picking the winners for each of the five donated gift baskets.

Finally, the winners of the silent auction were announced and the afternoon's events came to a close.

Overall, the fundraiser was a success, raising approximately \$10,000 for Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy.



Learner Judi Treble shares her personal, moving story.

New Tutors

We would like to welcome in our largest *ever* graduating class of tutors for Winter 2011! Your time and effort is truly appreciated.

Erin Brennan Anderson

Rita Auelmann

Jen Baker

Monica Bennett

Alesia Erickson

Joy Faigen

Ruth Gyllenhammer

Rosette Koorajian

Karen Mascitelli

Chuck Maurer

Adrianna Murillo Arrizon

Edie Noesser

Katie Northup

Dinah Piggott

Carol Preusch

Larry Raike

Sara Ramezan

Ann Saba

Nancy Schneider

Matthew Tsou

Judi Treble



President's Message

2011 – A Year of Celebration, Opportunity and Challenge!



2011 is turning out to be quite the year for the Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy Program.

We are celebrating our 25th Anniversary offering literacy programs to adults seeking to improve their lives and those of their families. Kudos to Carol Hazelwood for her vision and determination to see this dream take hold and grow to the program that it is today.

By the time that you read this we will have celebrated with two great festive events. The first was the **Newport Beach Sunrise Rotary Gala** held on Saturday, April 2. This wonderful organization graciously featured our literacy program as the principle beneficiary for the event. Not only do our learners benefit, but more and more people are getting to know us.

The **4th Annual Gift of Literacy** was an event widely anticipated and certainly didn't disappoint. Nicole Mones is delightful and we are all looking forward to her newest book. How can you go wrong hearing such a wonderful author and supporting a great cause at the same time?

Opportunity is always around us. We just need to keep our eyes and ears open as well as an optimistic state of mind. One of our goals this year is to expand our outreach to the community in an effort to continue to develop the skills of those who live or work in the area, as well as strengthening our relationships in our community and with local businesses. We are always open to new ideas and suggestions. Let us know what you are thinking. We are 25 years old and eager to keep moving forward.

Challenge is one of those words that can mean many different things. In this case it means raising funds in an environment where the State of California may eliminate support for literacy programs, as officials grapple with getting their arms around the budget. Your Advisory Board is doing a terrific job researching grants, corporate gifts in addition to personal support. Our challenge is to replace the loss in state funds without damaging the program.

As we continue to celebrate our 25th Anniversary we also embrace both opportunities and challenges, which often go hand in hand. It is an exciting year and we welcome your involvement.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your support.

Nancy Thompson

Tutors: Thank you for turning in your monthly report by the 3rd of each month!

Page 1, ANNIVERSARY

In 1988 Marcia Hendricks Tungate became the first literacy coordinator with an office in the library. During those years a new Advisory Board, public awareness through TV and other local media, workplace literacy, fundraisers such as the *Business Spelling Bees*, and improved tutor training increased the program's profile in Orange County.

In 2002 the two major literacy programs in the United States, *Literacy Volunteers of America* and *Laubach* joined forces to become *ProLiteracy America*. The Newport program now functions under the name *Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy*.

Through the years, the program has had several literacy coordinators and Advisory Board Presidents. Despite major financial cuts to the program by the city and the state, the literacy program has continued to develop, improve and grow. City and state funding, grants and fundraising events, such as the Author's Luncheon on April 8, have become the lifeblood of the organization.

Today the program continues to serve the community with over 100 tutors, volunteers, and learners. Although it maintains the fundamental principle of one-on-one tutoring, it has added small classes on pronunciation, writing, life skills, book club, and idiomatic English. Computer programs for learners of all abilities are also now available. And most important the tutor training has been revised and modernized to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

It has been a privilege to witness the growth and development of the Newport Beach literacy program, due to the dedication and skills of the program's staff and the confidence they instill in the volunteers. When I leave the Advisory Board at the end of this year, I know the program remains in very capable hands.

Literally Speaking

Literally Speaking, the newsletter of Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy at the Newport Beach Public Library, is published bi-monthly and sponsored by corporate and private donations.

Literacy Advisory Board

Nancy Thompson, *President*
 Amy Tan, *Vice President*
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 Lorna Harris
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 Eve-Marie Kuntzman
 Gail McIntosh
 Mark Smalls
 Sandra Starr

Learner's Corner

2011 SCLLN Literacy Conference

By Jiyoung Kang

On March 5th it was a pleasant and productive day for me. I attended the **SCLLN Conference** to explore a new experience for me. And I had to be an early bird because the conference started at 7:00am.

When I was told about the conference, the term "conference" was somewhat unfamiliar personally. I felt as if I needed high heels and a formal black suit to attend the conference. However the atmosphere of the venue was contrary to my concern during the conference. As a learner, it was a valuable time for me. As a member of the NBPL literacy program, it was a comfortable time for me. As a participant in the conference, it was a delightful time for me.

I attended three workshops. First, *Stories in Our Lives* by S. Henegar was about making a successful family story as a storyteller. My interest was captivated by his speech with enthusiastic gestures and voice. Next, *7 Keys of Decoding* by W. Byrne was about learning the pattern of syllables. Last, *Creative Writing for Learners* by S. Barnes was a good time to rethink how a trivial thing could be an ingredient of creative writing.

There was also an enjoyable and a wonderful time at lunch. My friends, learners and leaders in NBPL, were seated around the round table. We had a delicious lunch, including a piece of chocolate cake while chatting with each other. We joyfully repeated talking, eating, laughing and talking again together. Moreover, the *Writer to Writer* ceremony was wonderful.



Jiyoung with friends, taking a lunch break during a fun day of workshops.



Tutor Teddy Edwards with Ashley Park, 2010 Writer 2 Writer finalist.

Through the prize-winning learners' stories, I could feel their warmth, wit and passion. At that moment, the learners already looked like professional writers. I was sure that the winners' tutors were proud of their learners. While listening to the winners' letters, I thought that the letters would be another knock on many learners' potential door. I truly loved their reading. I was especially very glad to listen to the story from, Ashley Park, a learner in NBPL. During the whole conference, I was happy to belong to the literacy program once again.

If you would like to join the conference next time, don't worry about anything. Just register and enjoy it. Are you shy to attend a big venue alone? Don't worry. Many learners and leaders in the NBPL will be with you as I experienced. 🌟

Newport/Mesa ProLiteracy
 a service of the Newport Beach Public Library
 1000 Avocado Avenue
 Newport Beach, CA 92660

Upcoming Literacy Dates/Events

April 4, 11, 18, 25	Mondays, 10:30 am	Adult Learner Book Club
April 5, 12, 19, 26	Tuesdays, 10:15 am	Adult Learner Discussion Class
April 6	Wednesday, 10:00 am	New Learner Orientation
April 6	Wednesday, 10:00 am	Movie Talk
April 7, 14, 21, 28	Thursdays, 10:30 am	Adult Learner Life Skills Dialog
April 8	Friday, 11:30 am	Gift of Literacy Fundraiser Luncheon**
April 12	Monday, 10:00 am	New Tutor Orientation
April 13	Wednesday, 10:00 am	Tutor Connection
April 22	Friday, 3:30 pm	Families For Literacy Program
April 22, 29	Fridays, 9:30 am	Advanced Life Skills Dialogs*
May 2, 16	Mondays, 6:30 pm	Adult Learner Creative Speaking
May 2, 9, 16, 23,30	Mondays, 10:30 am	Adult Learner Book Club
May 3, 10	Tuesdays, 9:00 am	Tutor Training
May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31	Tuesdays, 10:15 am	Adult Learner Discussion Class
May 4	Wednesday, 10:00 am	Movie Talk
May 5, 12, 19, 26	Thursdays, 10:30 am	Adult Learner Life Skills Dialog
May 5, 12, 19, 26	Thursdays, 6:30 pm	Adult Learner Conversation Class
May 6, 20	Fridays, 9:30 am	Advanced Life Skills Dialogs*
May 18	Wednesday, 10:00 am	Learner Network
May 27	Friday, 3:30 pm	Families For Literacy Program

* By invitation only. Must attend Thursday Life Skills Dialogs class to be eligible

**Held at the Radisson Hotel Newport Beach

Note: All programs are held at the Central Library unless otherwise posted and subject to change.
 For more details, contact the literacy office at (949) 717-3874 or email us at literacy@newportbeachca.gov